

REMARKS

In the Office Action of March 15, 2004, claims 1-44 were deemed subject to a restriction. More specifically, restriction is required for Group I (Original claims 1-10 and new claims 45-46), Group II (Claims 11-18), Group III (Claims 19-33) and Group IV (Claims 34-44).

By this Amendment and Response, the Applicant provisionally elects Group I without traverse. Claims 10-44 have been cancelled. New claims 45-46 depend from claim 1 and thus appear to fall within Group I.

The Applicant's election is without prejudice or admission with respect to the Applicant's right to re-file the withdrawn claims in a continuing application. No new matter has been introduced into the application. The claims as now presented are believed to be in allowable condition. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending claims and a finding of their allowability. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. Please feel free to contact the undersigned should any questions arise with respect to this case that may be addressed by telephone.

Appln. No.: 09/982,763
Amendment dated April 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. However, if a fee is deemed necessary, or if a refund is due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit our Deposit Account 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD.

Dated: April 15, 2004

By


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